

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 H-01 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RRDELABARRE:LB

APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY

EUR/REBARBOUR

-----262314Z 066947 /12

O R 262223Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ MAY 26 TO DISCUSS TURKISH-US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN HOW U.S. PROPOSED TO HAVE TURKISH F-4 PROGRAM CONTINUE AND WONDERED WHETHER STEPS COULD NOT BE TAKEN SOON SO AS TO AVOID DEADLINES OF MANUFACTURERS AND U.S LAW AND PROCEDURES.

2. NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT STUDY OF F-4 PROBLEM, IN CONSULTATION WITH DOD AND MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, HAD NOW BEEN COMPLETED. ON BASIS OF THIS STUDY, WE WERE CONFIDENT F-4
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PROGRAM COULD BE CONTINUED. THERE WERE VARIOUS MEANS OF PROCEEDING BUT FIRST STEP WOULD REQUIRE AN INTERIM COMMERCIAL CONTRACT FUNDED BY TURKISH COMMERCIAL LETTER OF CREDIT DESIGNED TO COVER THE PERIOD JUNE 30-OCTOBER 31. WHEN ESENBEL INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING OTHER SUBSEQUENT OPTIONS EXPLAINED TO HIM, NIMETZ PRESENTED PAPER (TEXT IN SEPTTEL) OUTLINING HOW F-4 PROGRAM MIGHT BE CONTINUED

THROUGH FY 78 AND BEYOND. IN OUTLINING OPTIONS NIMETZ MADE CLEAR THAT WHENUS-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS APPROVED -- AND WE HOPED THIS WOULD OCCUR AT AN EARLY DATE -- IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE PROMPTLY TO PLACE REMAINING PORTIONS OF F-4 PROGRAM COMPLETELY UNDER FMS IF THAT WAS WISH OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

3. ESENBEL READ PAPER AND SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TEXT TO ANKARA SOONEST. DECISION AS TO WHICH OPTION WOULD BE CHOSEN WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN ANKARA. IN THIS CONNECTION, NIMETZ INDICATED THAT AS SOON AS TURKISH GOVERNMENT DESIRED U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO EXPLAIN SITUATION AND SUGGESTED OPTIONS IN GREATER DETAIL. ESENBEL SAID TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF SUCH A TECHNICAL TEAM. HE DID NOT BELIEVE JUNE 5 TURKISH ELECTION WOULD BE FACTOR IN SCHEDULING TEAM'S VISIT.

4. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO STATUS OF PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION FOR DOLS 55.4 MILLION REMAINING IN FY 77 FMS AUTHORIZATION FOR TURKEY. NIMETZ SAID NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WERE NOW UNDER PREPARATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DETERMINATION COULD BE DELIVERED TO CONGRESS BY JUNE 15.

5. ESENBEL INQUIRED FINALLY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON TURKISH-US DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. HE SAID CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN HIRC EUROPE SUBCOMMITTEE, HAD PROMISED TO MAKE DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE ON SCHEDULING HEARINGS ON DCA. ESENBEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH HEARINGS WOULD BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL

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SOON AND THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO DELAY A CONGRESSIONAL STEP OF THIS KIND UNTIL AFTER NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS INSTALLED FOLLOWING JUNE 5 ELECTIONS. NIMETZ SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DCA AND SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT UNCOORDINATED MOVE OF THIS KIND BY A FEW SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE DESIRABLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE122247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RRDELABARRE:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770189-0184
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770512/aaaaaktw.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b543289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2350867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-TURKISH MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TU, US
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b543289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009